PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Two F.R.G. nationals have come to the notice of the Government for having entered Baliapal in the Balasore District of Orissa. One of them was found overstaying in India and accordingly action under the Foreigners Act has been taken. As of now, no Defence installation/equipment exists in the area and it is not a restricted area.

2821. [Transferred to the 25th March, 1988]

Polish credit for energy sector

2822. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Poland has offered to extend credit to India for joint collaboration in the Energy sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Government of Poland had offered, in 1986, credit assistance for supply and erection of equipment for the Ib Valley Thermal Project in Orissa. On a careful consideration of the matter, this offer was not found acceptable and the Government of Poland was informed accordingly.

Boosting up of tobacco exports

2823. SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for boosting up tobacco exports from the country as per the news-item in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 21st February, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. At a seminar on tobacco exports organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) in association with the Tobacco Boards on 20th February, 1988 suggestions have been made for boosting tobacco exports.

(b) Some of the suggestions made at the seminar are:

— It may be possible to increase exports if quality of tobacco is improved.

— Need to increase yield of tobacco per hectare which has remained static over the years.

— A fresh look at research and reviewing the extension efforts in order to make tobacco growing attractive.

— The State Governments have an important role to play in improving the quality and production of tobacco, as well as look after the interests of tobacco growers and exporters.

Efforts are underway to identify and develop the varieties which produce low-nicotine and tobaccos with flavour which have demand in some of the importing countries. It is proposed to intensify extension activities for improving the productivity and quality of tobacco in order to

reduce unit cost of tobacco and thus increase its price competitiveness in the world markets.

Smuggling of rare animals from India

2824. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleaed to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the Sunday Review of the 'Times of India' of 28th February, 1988 under the heading 'The animal baggers', wherein it has been stated that rare animals and birds are being shipped out of India *via*, Bangladesh and Nepal; and

(b) if so, what steps Government, are taking to check such a practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Regional Deputy Directors of Wildlife Preservation and the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the State Governments have been requested to exercise greater vigilance and to check the smuggling of wild animals and their products.

Loans to poor families

2825. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1985 about 47,000 units which had been advanced loans of Rs. ten lakhs and above had an outstanding amount of about Rs. 24,000 crores against them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recovery position of small loans of less than Rs. 10,000 advanced to the poor people is far better than the repayment and recovery position from the above units; and

(c) if so, what initiatives are being taken by Government to extend small loans of Rs. 10,000 and below to more poor families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the data on bank credit giving information on loans below Rs. 10,000 were collected for the last time in June, 1983. Thereafter this lower limit was revised to Rs. 25,000/-. Therefore, separate information for loans below Rs. 10,000/- is not available.

(c) It has been Government's continuous endeavour to extend the benefit of credit by Public Sector Banks to Weaker Sections of society. Banks have been asked to extend 10 per cent of their total outstanding advances to Weaker Sections and by the end of September, 1987 the outstanding advances of Public Sector Banks to Weaker Sections were of the order of Rs. 6506 crores constituting 11.4 per cent of their total advances.

Proper utilisation of amount advanced under SEPUP and SEEUY

2826. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3988 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th August, 1987 and state:

(a) what percentage out of the 2.67 lakh people covered by SEPUP and 6.56 lakh people under the SEEUY have properly utilised the amount advanced to them;

(b) what percentage out of them have actually risen above the poverty line;

(c) what measures are being taken to ensure the proper utilisation of the amount sanctioned and for the